

Acknowledgment: This Work Has Been Supported by Several NASA Programs

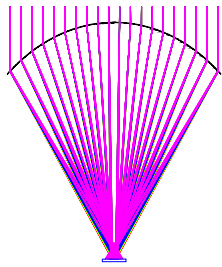
Stretched Lens Array (SLA) and Its Application to Space Solar Power (SSP)

Presented at the Space Solar Power Concept & Technology Maturation (SCTM)
Program Technical Interchange Meeting (TIM)

Ohio Aerospace Institute
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SLA Development Team

◆ Industry

- ENTECH: Lens and Photovoltaic (PV) Receiver Design & Fabrication
- ABLE Engineering: Panel Design & Array Integration
- 3M: Space-Qualified DC 93-500 Silicone Lensfilm Mass-Production
- Rockwell Scientific/ZC&R Coatings: UV-Rejection and AO Protection Coating for Silicone Lensfilm
- Spectrolab: High-Efficiency Triple-Junction Solar Cells
- EMCORE: High-Efficiency Triple-Junction Solar Cells
- JX Crystals: High-Efficiency Triple-Junction Solar Cells
- Space Systems Loral: Commercial Space Mission Needs

◆ NASA

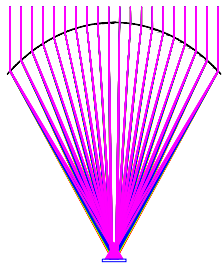
- NASA MSFC: Space Durability Testing of Lens and NASA Mission Needs
- NASA GRC: PV Receiver Design & Cell and Panel Performance Testing
- NASA LaRC: Stretched Lens Membrane Structural Analysis & Testing

◆ DOD

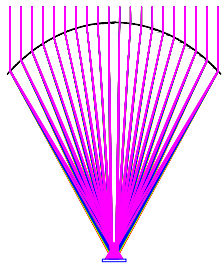
- AFRL: Military Space Mission Needs

◆ Academia

- Auburn Space Power Institute: Micrometeoroid Tests at High Voltage



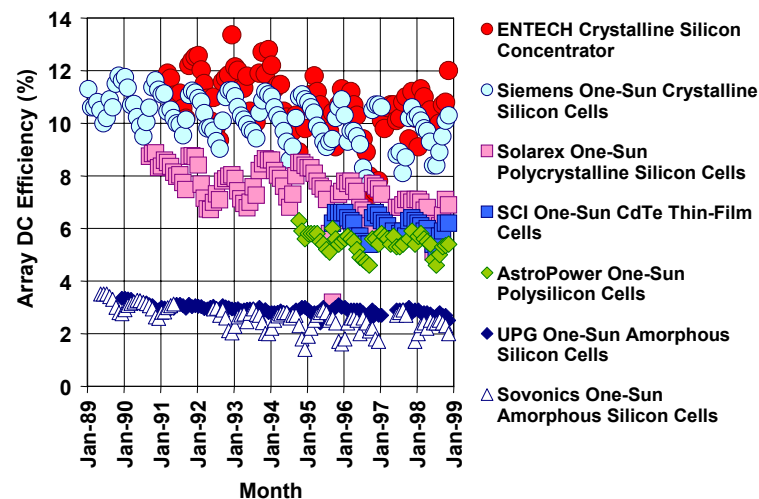
Background



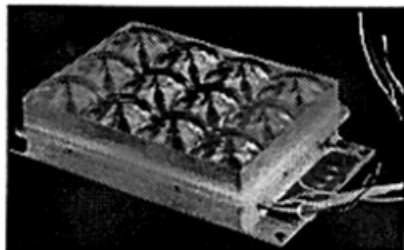
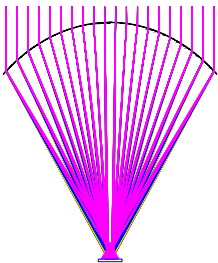
Heritage: 20-Sun Silicon-Cell-Based Terrestrial Concentrators



- ◆ Large-Area (3 m²) Module Uses 84-cm-Wide Acrylic Lens Focusing Onto 4-cm-Wide Silicon Cells (Modified One-Sun) Mounted to Extruded Aluminum Heat Sink
- ◆ Same Module Used in 2-Module **SunLine®** Array or 72-Module **SolarRow®** Array
- ◆ SolarRow Array at PVUSA-Davis Out-Performed Competing Technologies for Many Years – See Graph at Right



Heritage: Space Fresnel Lens Multi-Junction-Cell Photovoltaic Concentrators



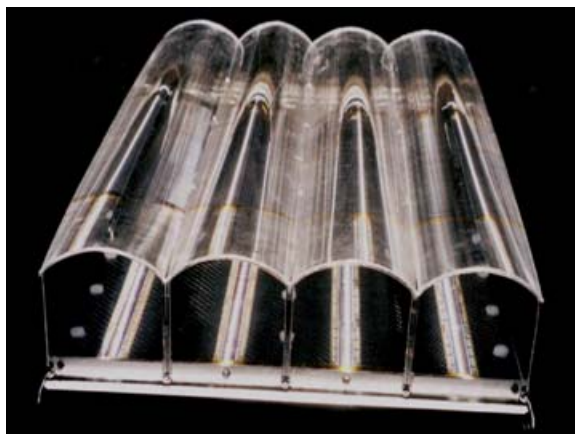
Mini-Dome Lenses
on PASP+ in 1994



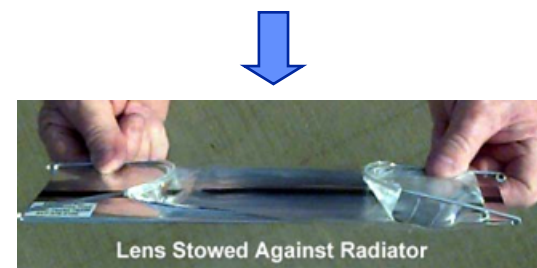
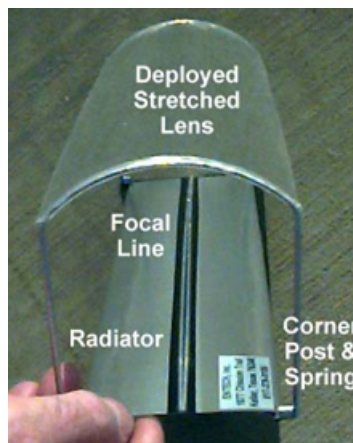
SCARLET 1 Lenses on
COMET/METEOR in 1995



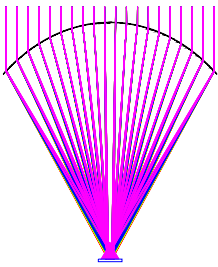
SCARLET 2 Lenses on
Deep Space 1 in 1998



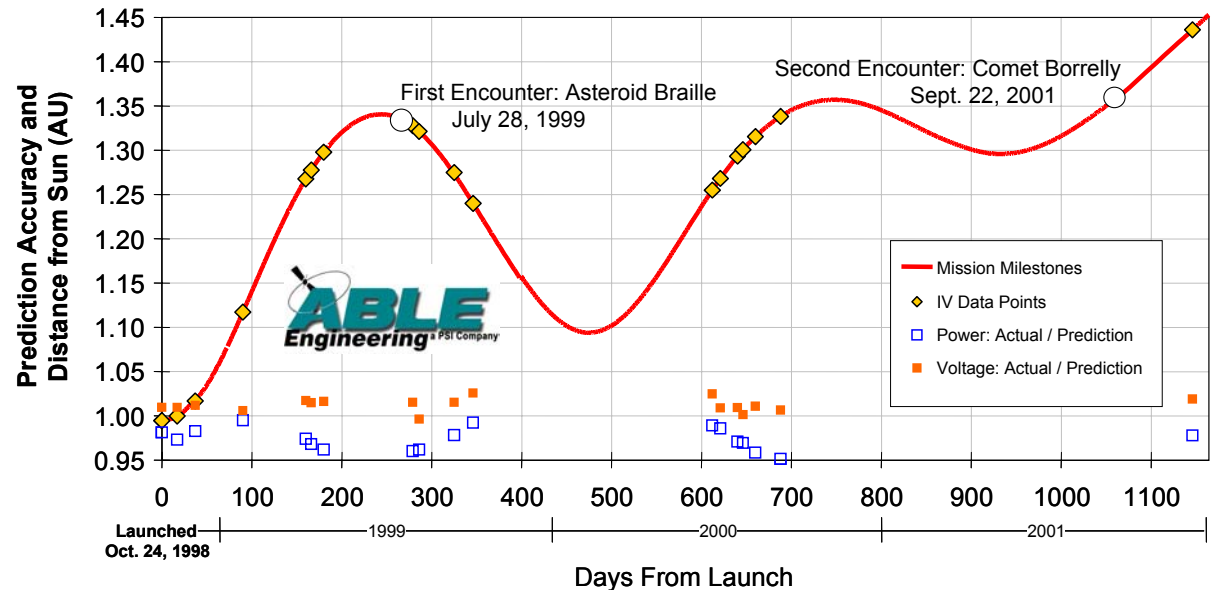
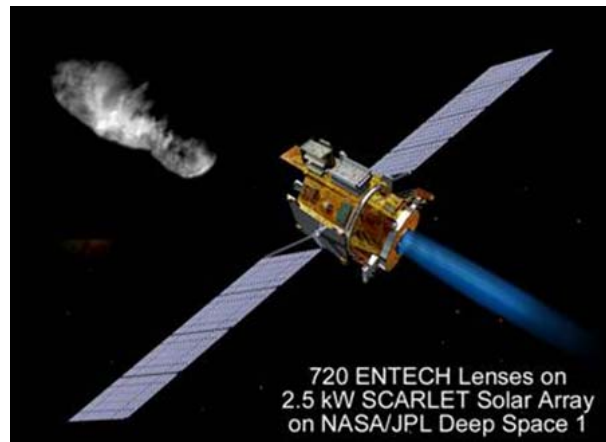
Stretched Lenses and
Photovoltaic Receivers in 2000:
27% Net Module Efficiency



Stretched Lens in 1998

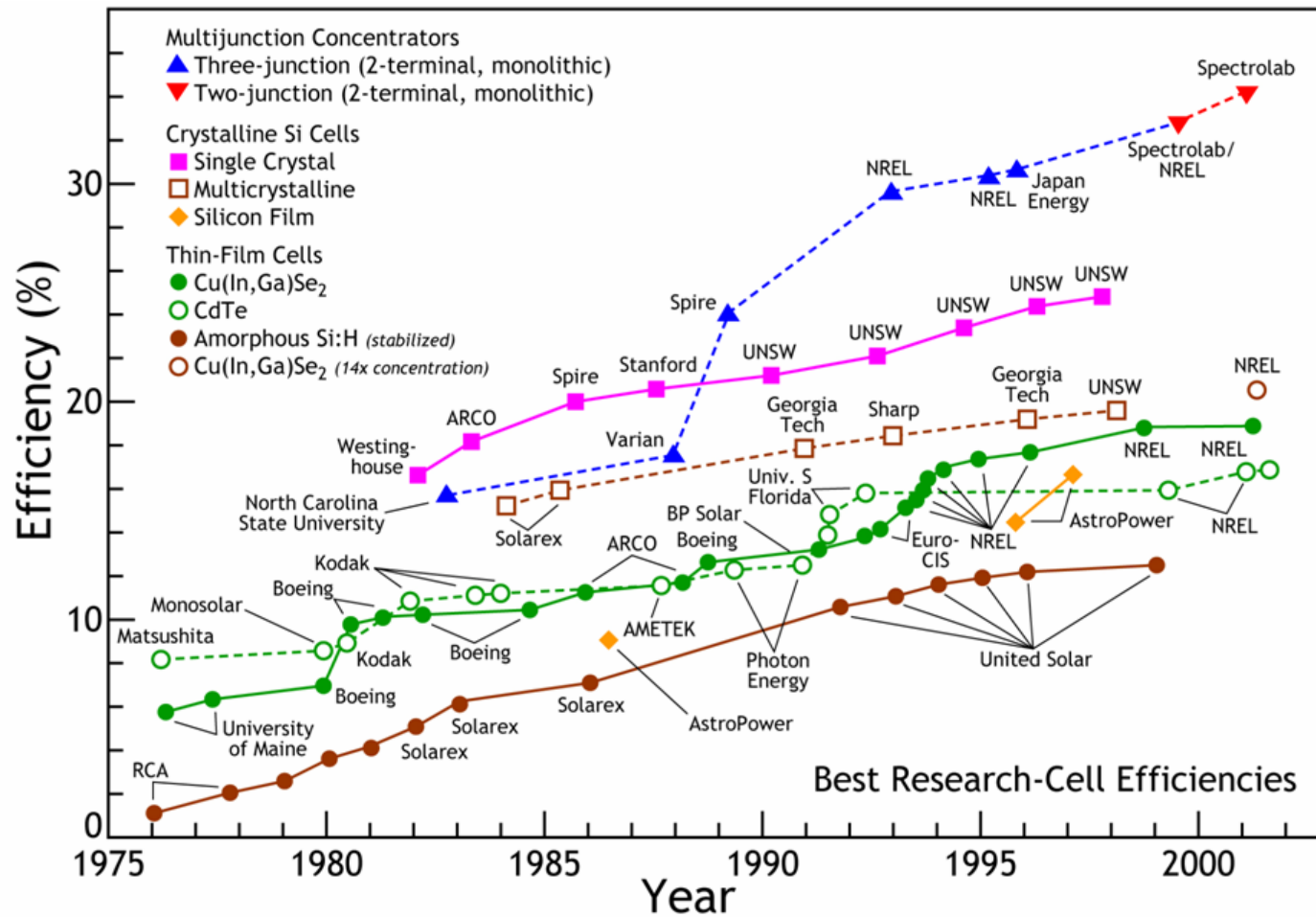


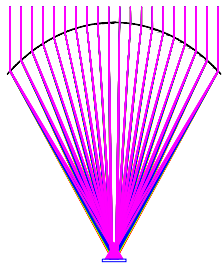
Heritage: Multi-Junction-Cell Based Concentrators for Space Power



- ◆ The SCARLET Concentrator Array on Deep Space 1 Was the First Flight of Triple-Junction Cells as the Primary Power for a Spacecraft
- ◆ The SCARLET Array Performed Flawlessly in Powering Both the Spacecraft and the Ion Engine for More than 3 Years, to Successful Rendezvous with Both the Asteroid, Braille, and the Comet, Borrelly
- ◆ Measured Power Still Matched Predictions Within $\pm 2\%$ at Mission's End in December 2001

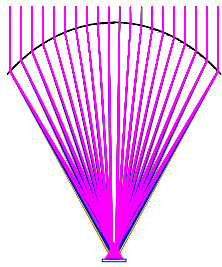
Terrestrial Cell Efficiencies Over Time – from DOE's Strategic Program Review March 2002





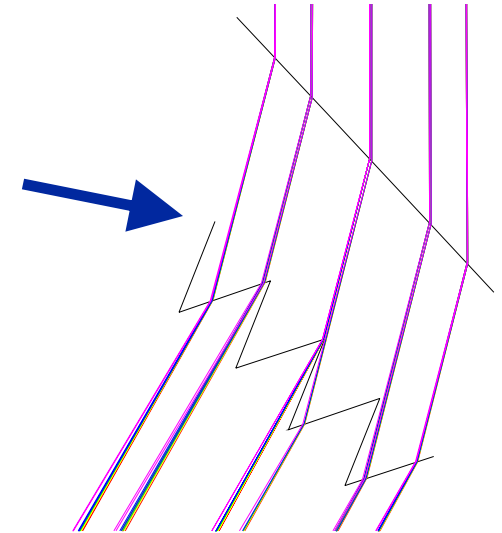
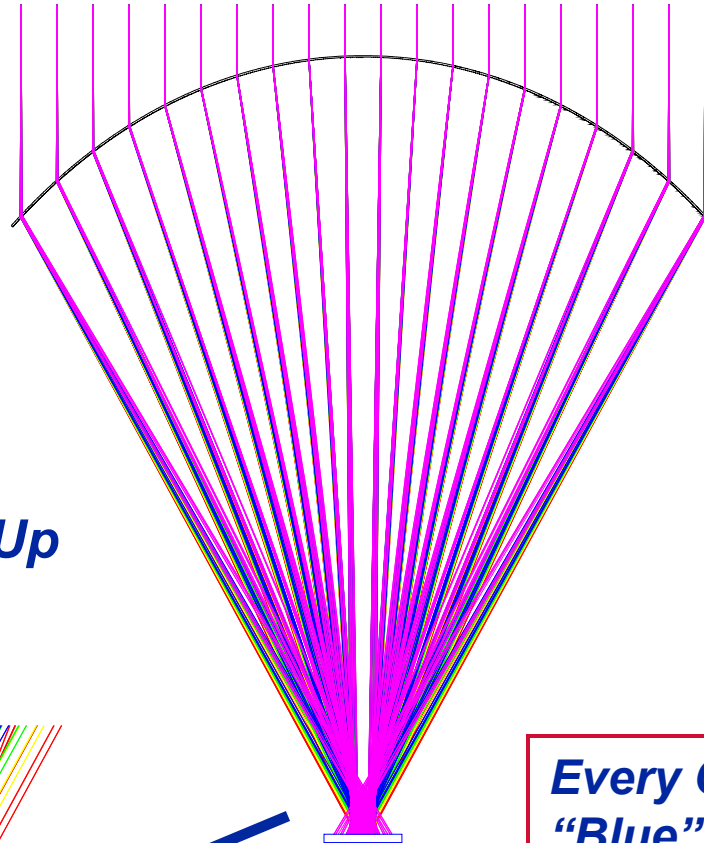
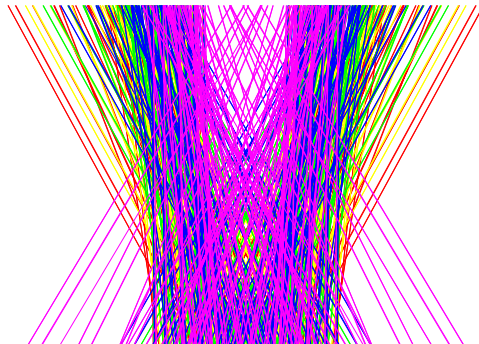
Optics

Ray Trace for Color-Mixing Fresnel Lens



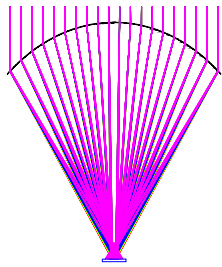
U.S. Patents
 4,069,812
 6,031,179
 6,075,200

Receiver Close-Up



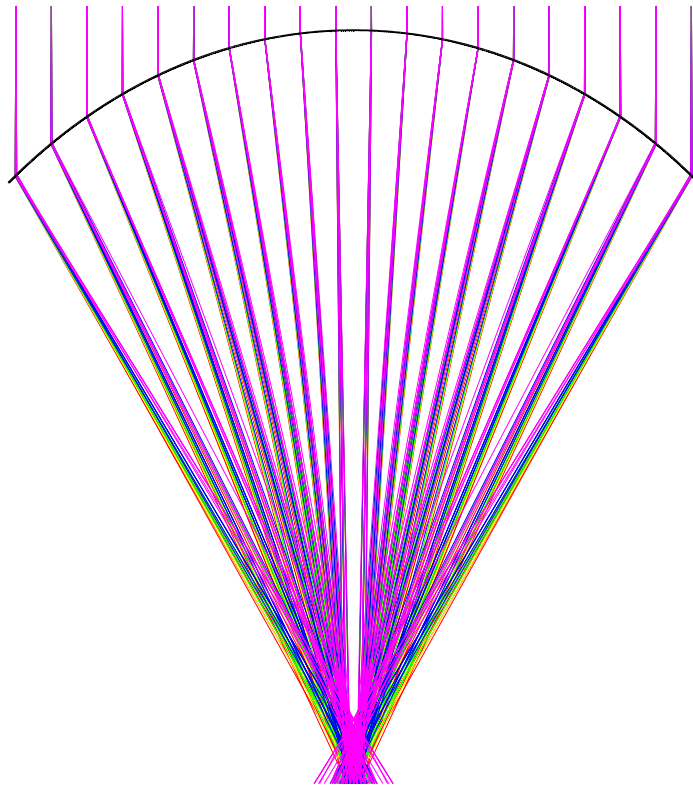
Lens Close-Up

**Every Other Prism Overlaps the
 “Blue” in Its Image with the
 “Red” in the Neighboring
 Prism’s Image**

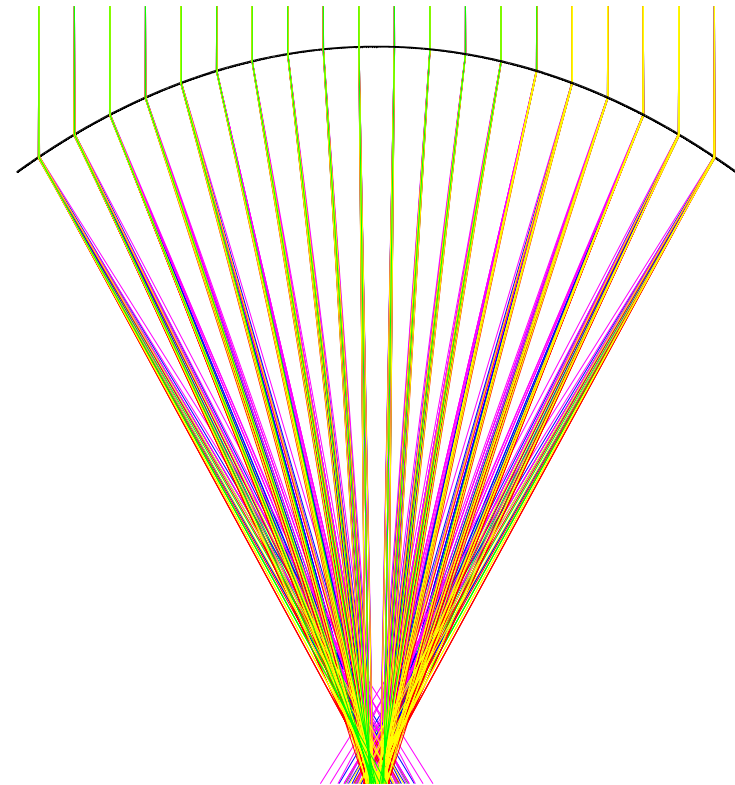


Color-Mixing Lens Shape Error Tolerance

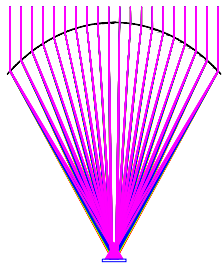
Undistorted Lens



Distorted Lens: Flattened and Sagged with 10° Edge Slope Errors



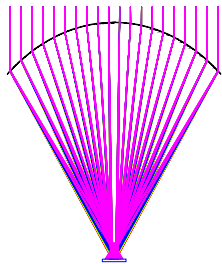
Conclusion: Even Huge Shape Errors Have Only Small Effects on Optical Performance



New Ultra-Thin Lensfilm Material

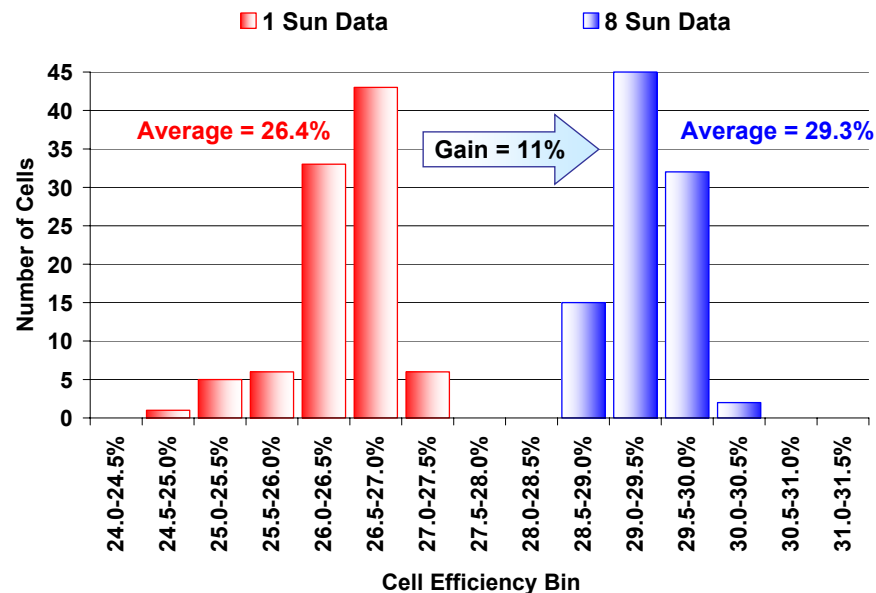
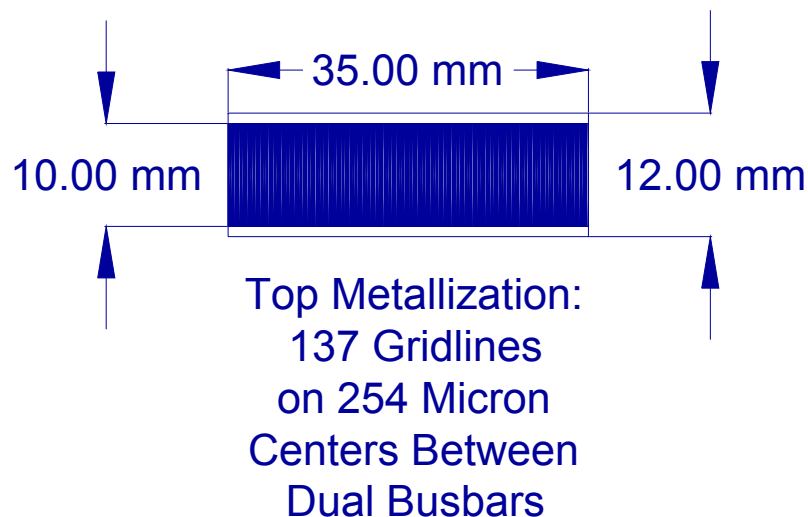
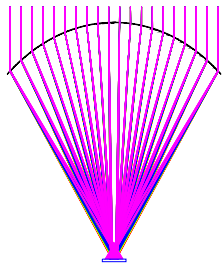


- ◆ **3M Successfully Completed a Trial Run (20 sq.m.) of Ultra-Thin DC93-500 Lensfilm**
 - **100 Micron Tall Prisms**
 - **90 Micron Base Thickness**
 - **140 Micron Mass-Equivalent Thickness Since Triangular Prisms Fill Half of 100 Microns**
- ◆ **ENTECH Tested the Lenfilm for Optical Performance Using an NREL-Furnished Single-Junction GaInP Reference Concentrator Cell, as Shown in Photo**
 - **91-93% Net Optical Efficiency**
 - **Same as for Previous Thicker Lensfilm (100 Micron Tall Prisms on 180 Micron Base)**
- ◆ **New Lensfilm Mass Is 40% Lower than Previous Lensfilm Mass**



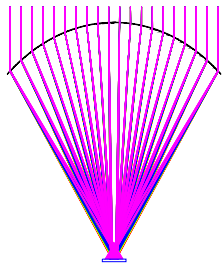
Cells

Latest Triple-Junction Space Solar Cell for the Stretched Lens Array (SLA)



GaInP/GaAs/Ge Triple-Junction Cell Is Compatible with Silicone Prism Cover or Conventional Microsheet Cover Glass

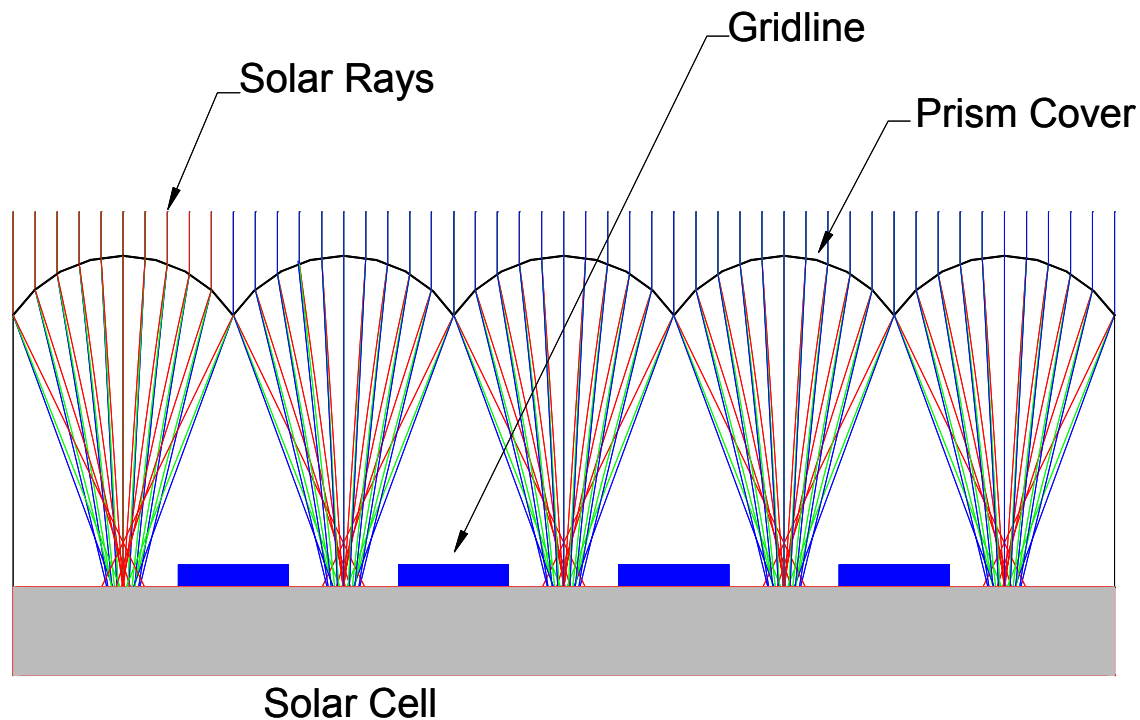
Bare Cell Efficiency Distribution at 1 Sun and 8 Suns (AM0)



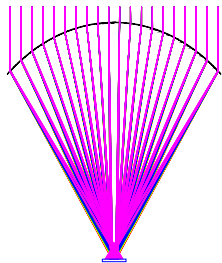
Solar Cell Prism Cover

U.S. Patent 4,711,972

***Cross-Sectional
Blowup of
Silicone Prism
Cover Used with
GaInP/GaAs/Ge
Multijunction
Solar Cell***

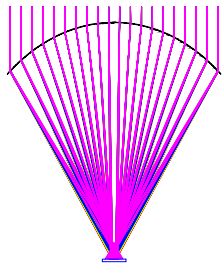


Prism Cover Eliminates Grid Shadow Loss

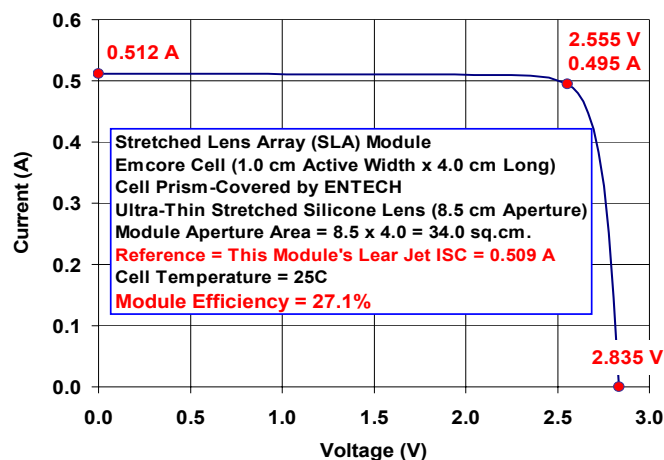
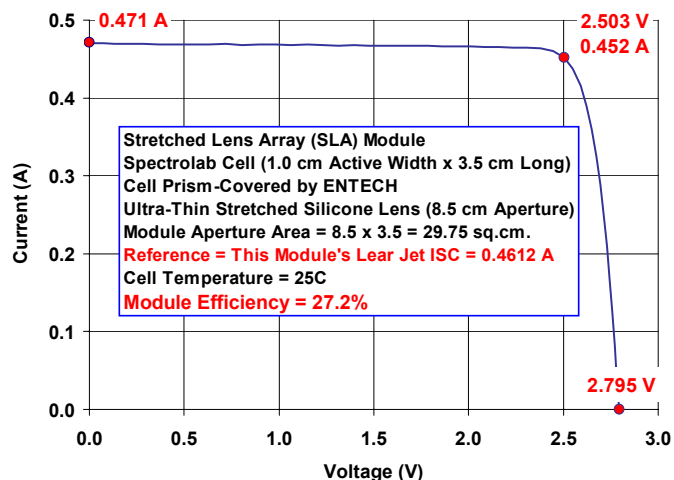


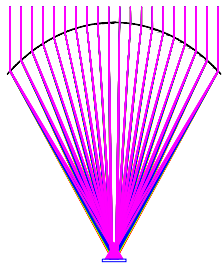
Lens/Cell Modules

27% Net Lens/Cell Module Efficiency (AM0)



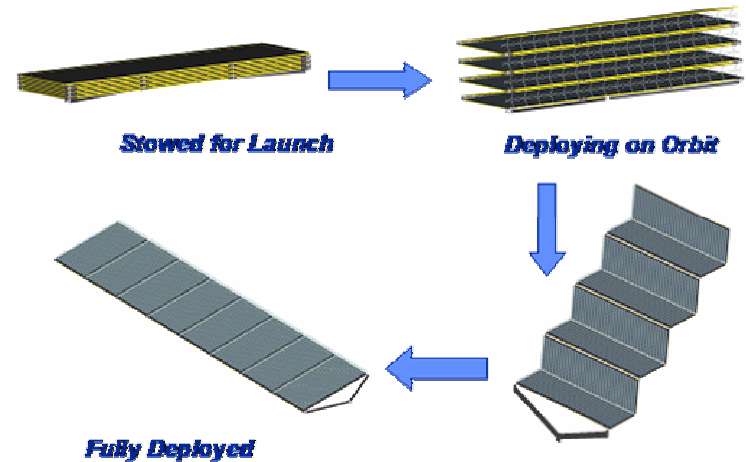
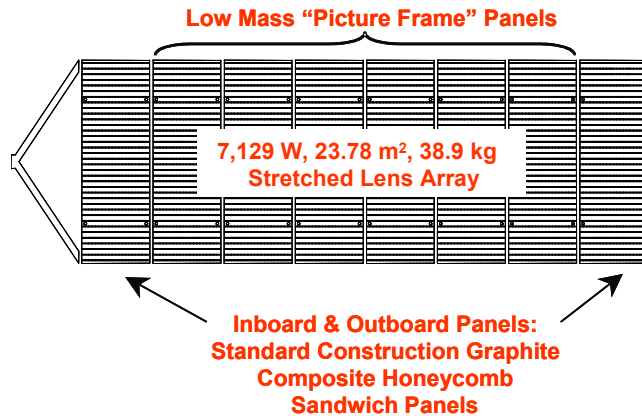
- ◆ NASA Glenn Recently Flew Lens/Cell Modules (Photo) on the Lear Jet to Measure AM0 Short-Circuit Currents
- ◆ NASA Glenn Used Lear Results to Set Lamps and Calibrate Full IV Curves in LAPSS Tests
- ◆ Modules with Prism-Covered Cells from Both Emcore and Spectrolab Exceeded 27% Net Efficiency at 25C, AM0





Full Array

7 kW SLA Wing Attributes



Feature	Value or Characteristic
Point Design Basis	7,129 Watts (BOL)
SLA Implementation	Pop-up lenses
Base Platform Design Maturity	Most components flight proven on DS1
Specific Power	183 W/kg
Stowed Volume	0.11 m ³ /kW
Stowed Stiffness	40 Hz
Deployed Stiffness	0.1 Hz
Stowed Power	Easily implemented on outer panel
Ease of Adding Planar Panel	Easily implemented on outer panel
Flatness & Warping	Well understood flat stable platform
Deployment Testing	Can use existing off-loaders
Power Testing	Pop-up lenses allow each panel to be tested as a complete assembly before wing integration
Commercial Appeal	Easier to integrate on commercial spacecraft. Readily accepted configuration.
Self Shadowing	No self shadowing

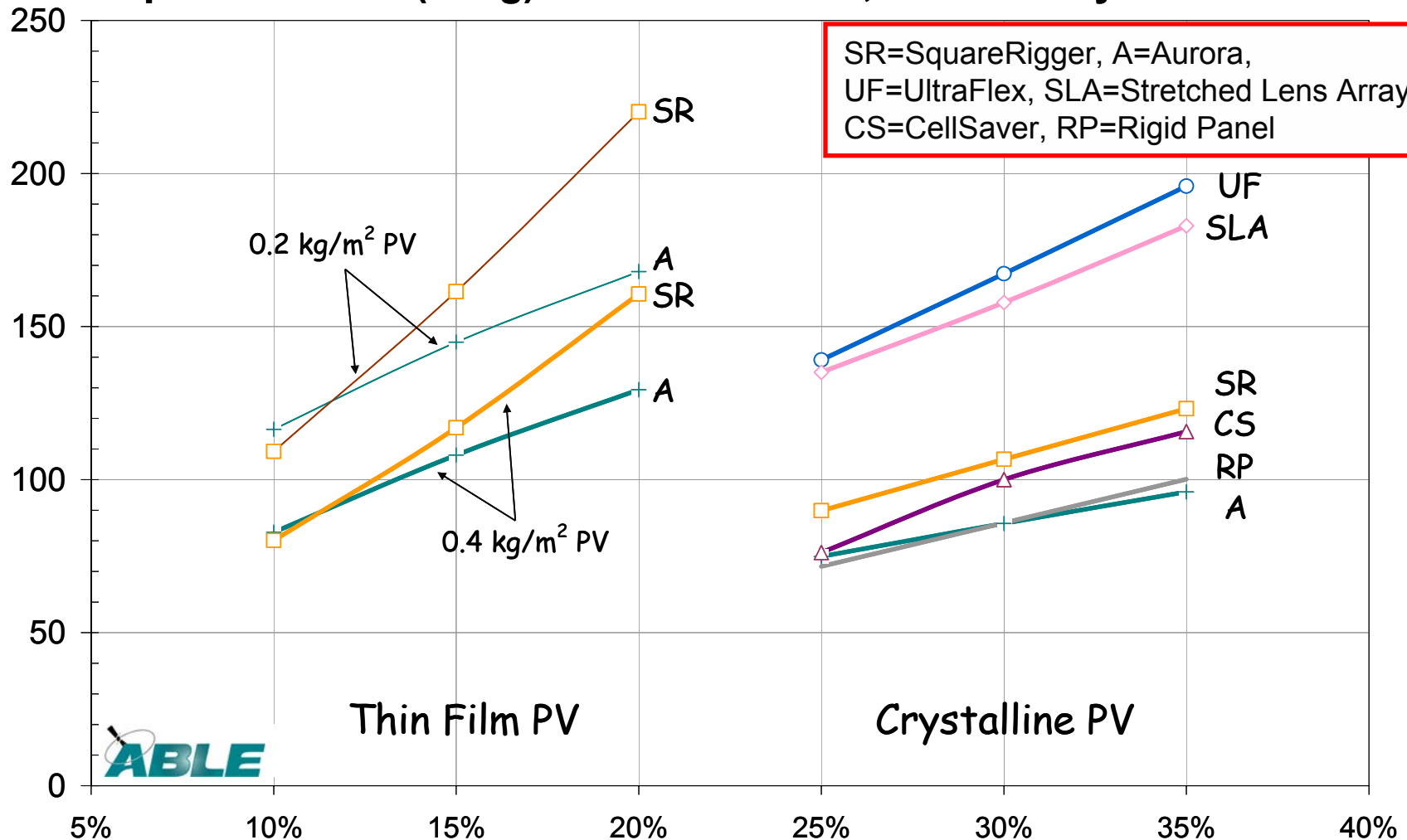
Current Technology SLA Wing-Level Beginning-of-Life (BOL) Performance:

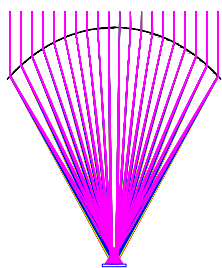
- **Stowed Power Density: 9 kW/m³**
- **Areal Power Density: 300 W/m²**
- **Specific Power: 180 W/kg**
- **Operational Voltage: 300 V**

GEO Mission Array Comparisons (from Murphy et al., IEEE PVSC, 5/02)

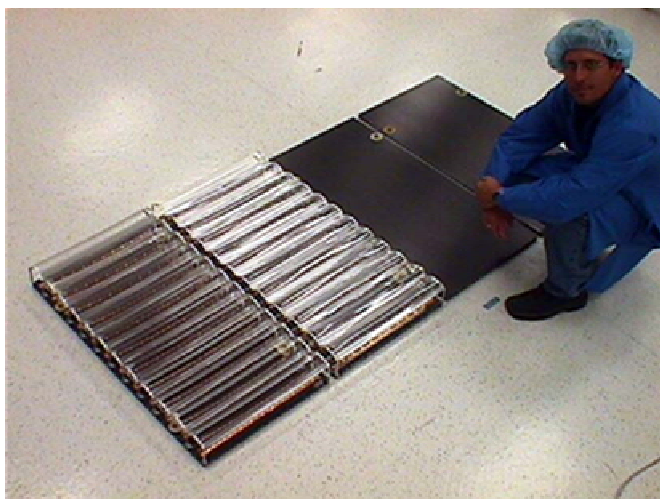
Specific Power (W/kg) for GEO Mission, 20 kW Array at EOL

SR=SquareRigger, A=Aurora,
UF=UltraFlex, SLA=Stretched Lens Array,
CS=CellSaver, RP=Rigid Panel

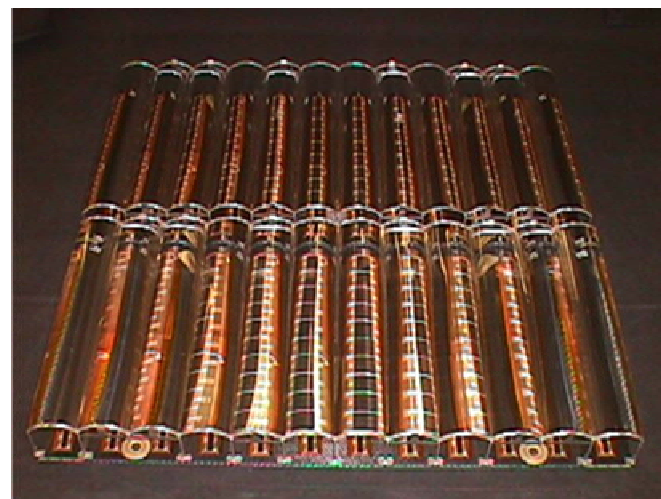




Prototype SLA Wing Hardware



Two Panels with Stretched Lenses



Two Panels with Simulated Receivers

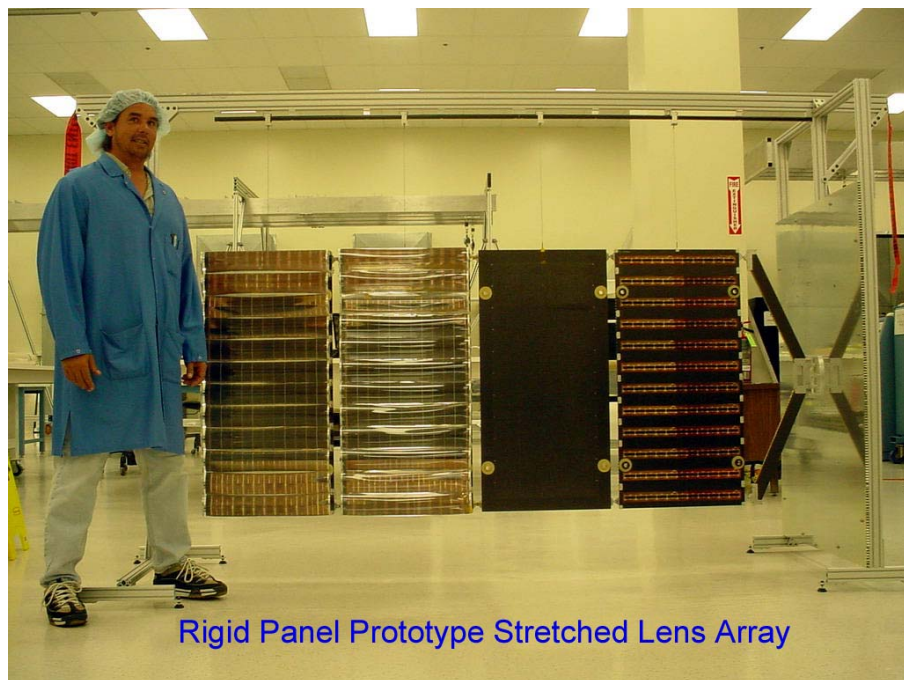
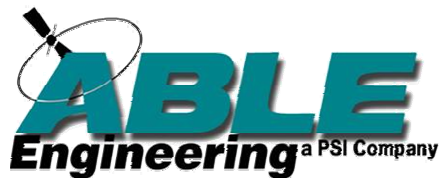


Close-Up View Of Pop-Up Arches

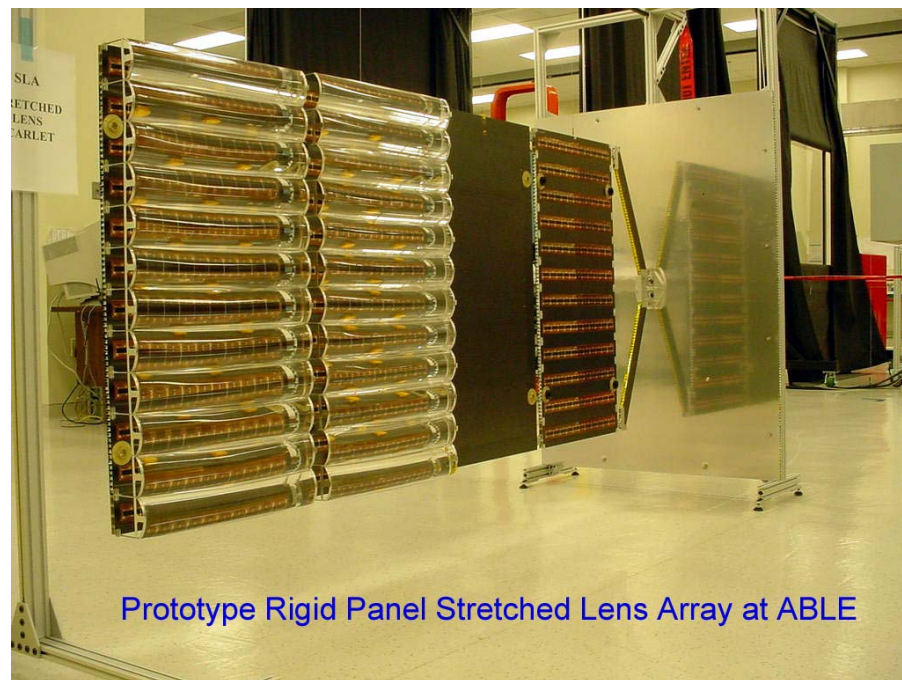


Back of Picture-Frame Panel

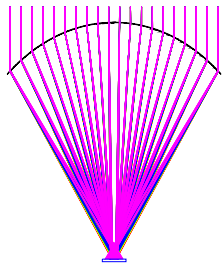
Rigid Panel SLA Prototype Array at ABLE



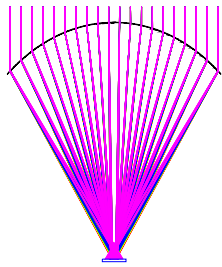
Rigid Panel Prototype Stretched Lens Array



Prototype Rigid Panel Stretched Lens Array at ABLE



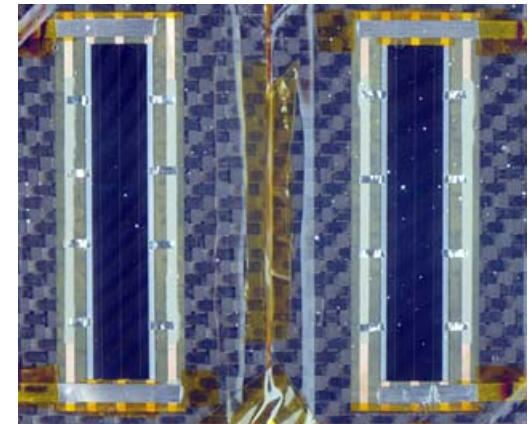
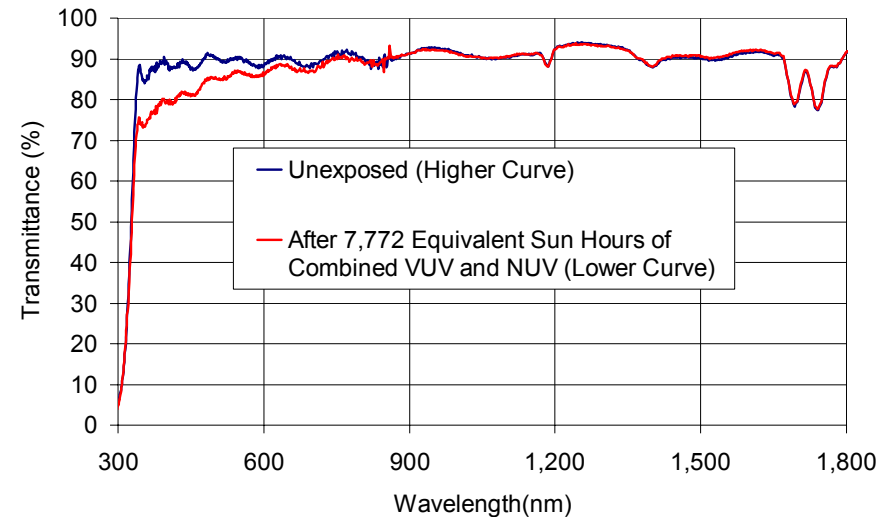
Durability Testing

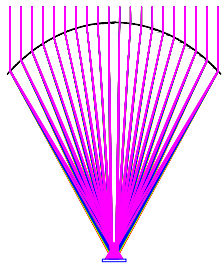


SLA Durability Testing

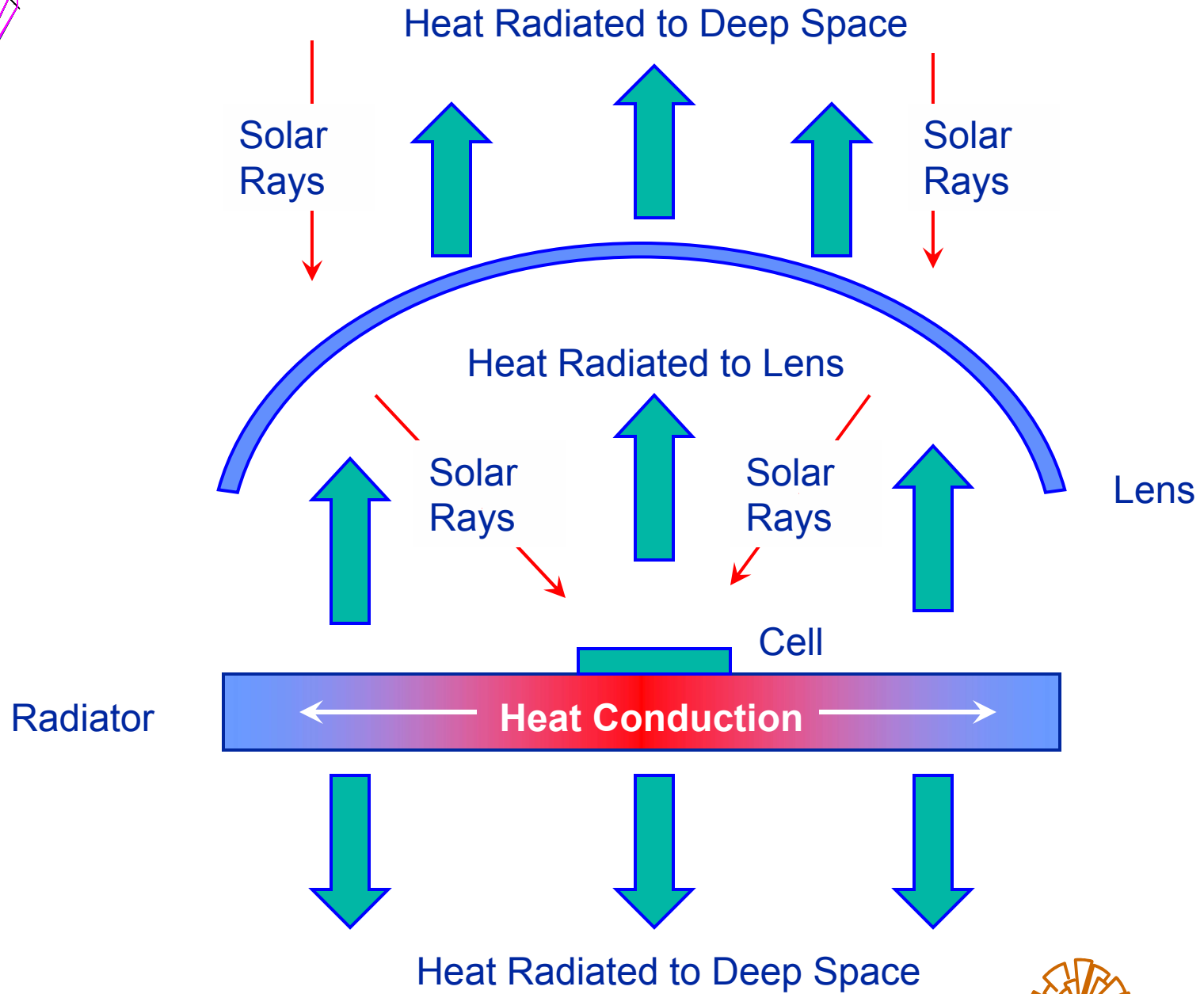
- ◆ **Ultra-Thin Stretched Lens Survived 1,800 Thermal Cycles from -180C to +120C (20 Years on GEO)**
- ◆ **Stretched Lens Maintained Optical Performance After 1×10^{15} of 1 MeV electrons per sq.cm.**
- ◆ **Ultraviolet (VUV + NUV) Testing of Coated Lens Material Shows Only Small Degradation**
- ◆ **Micrometeoroid Impact Tests on Stretched Lenses and Encapsulated Cells (Biased at 1,000 V Relative to Space Plasma) Showed No Lens Tearing or Electrical Arcing**

UV-Rejection-Coated DC 93-500 Spectral Transmittance

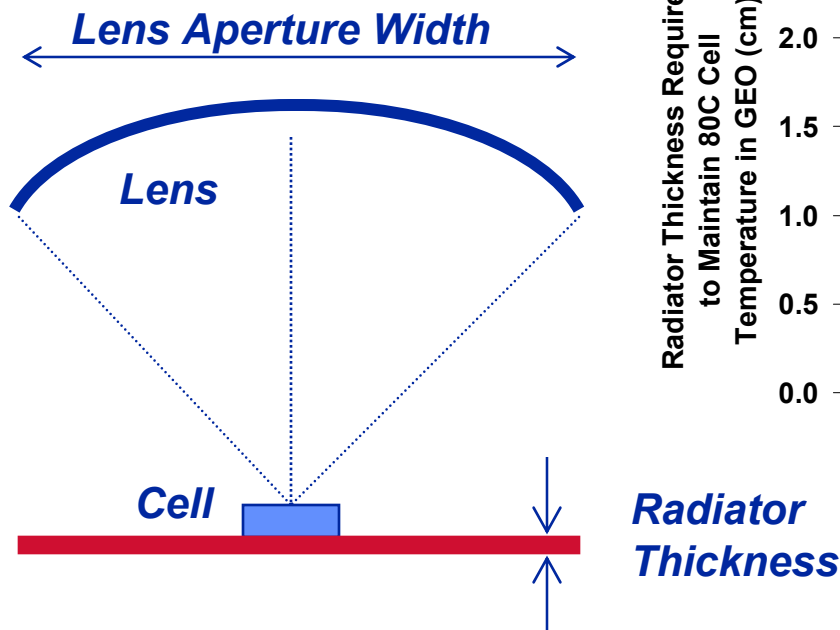
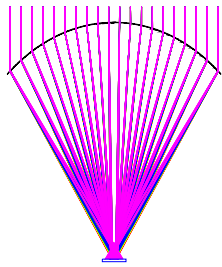




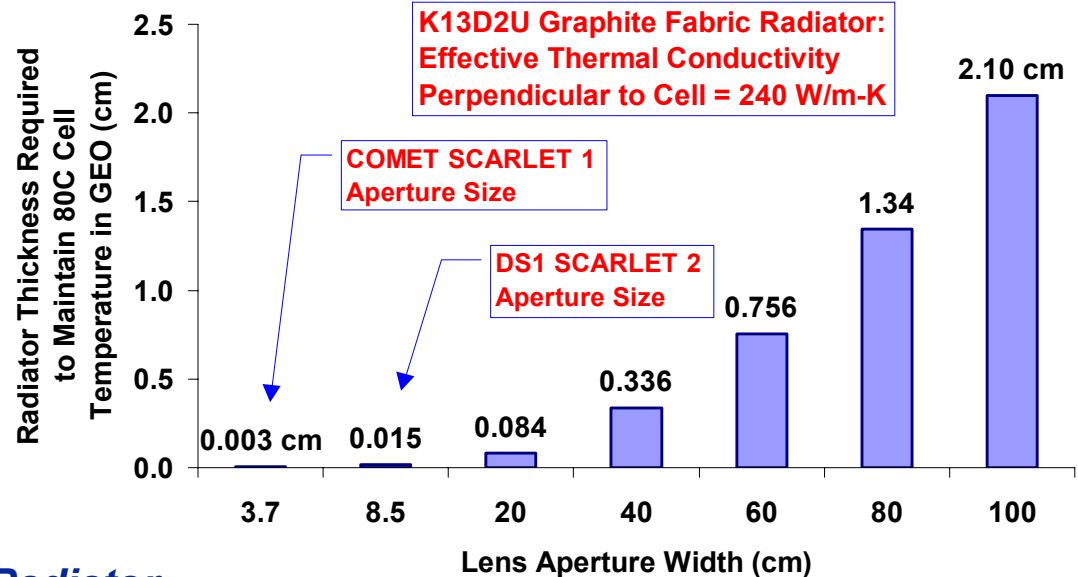
Thermal



Required Radiator Thickness for Line Focus PV Concentrators with 25% Cells Depends on Scale

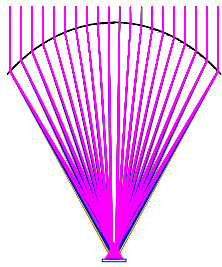


Required Radiator Thickness to Maintain 80C Cell Temperature in GEO for a Line-Focus Photovoltaic Concentrator (~ 5X to 30X) with 25% Efficient Cell



~150 Micron Thick Radiator Is Fine for Present 8.5 cm Lens Aperture Width

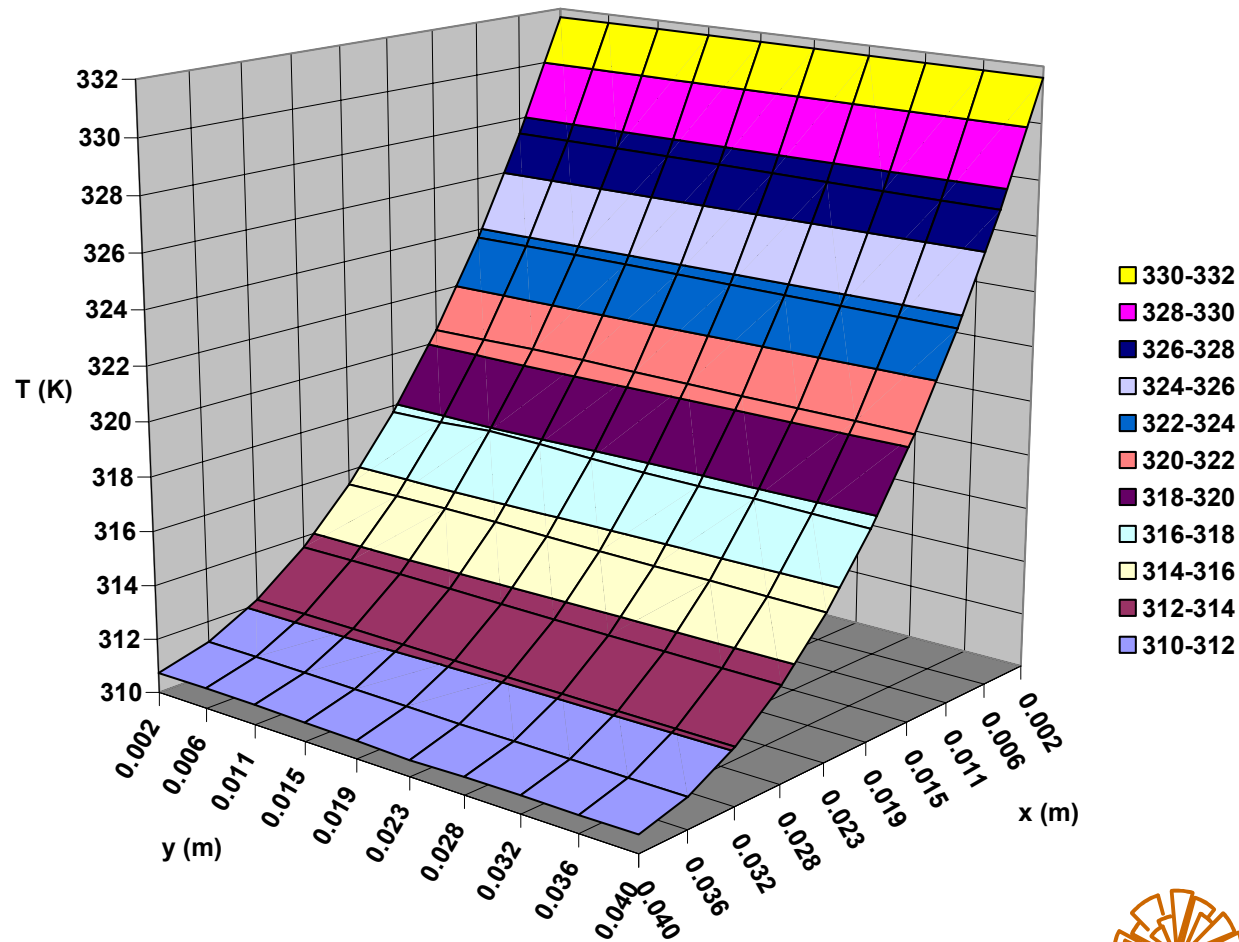
Thermal Analysis: Line Focus with 30% Cells



10X Linear Lens Radiator Thermal Analysis

8.5 cm Aperture Width, 30% Cell, 127 micron Radiator Thickness, GEO Orbit

Max Radiator Temperature Just Beneath Cell = 332K (59C)

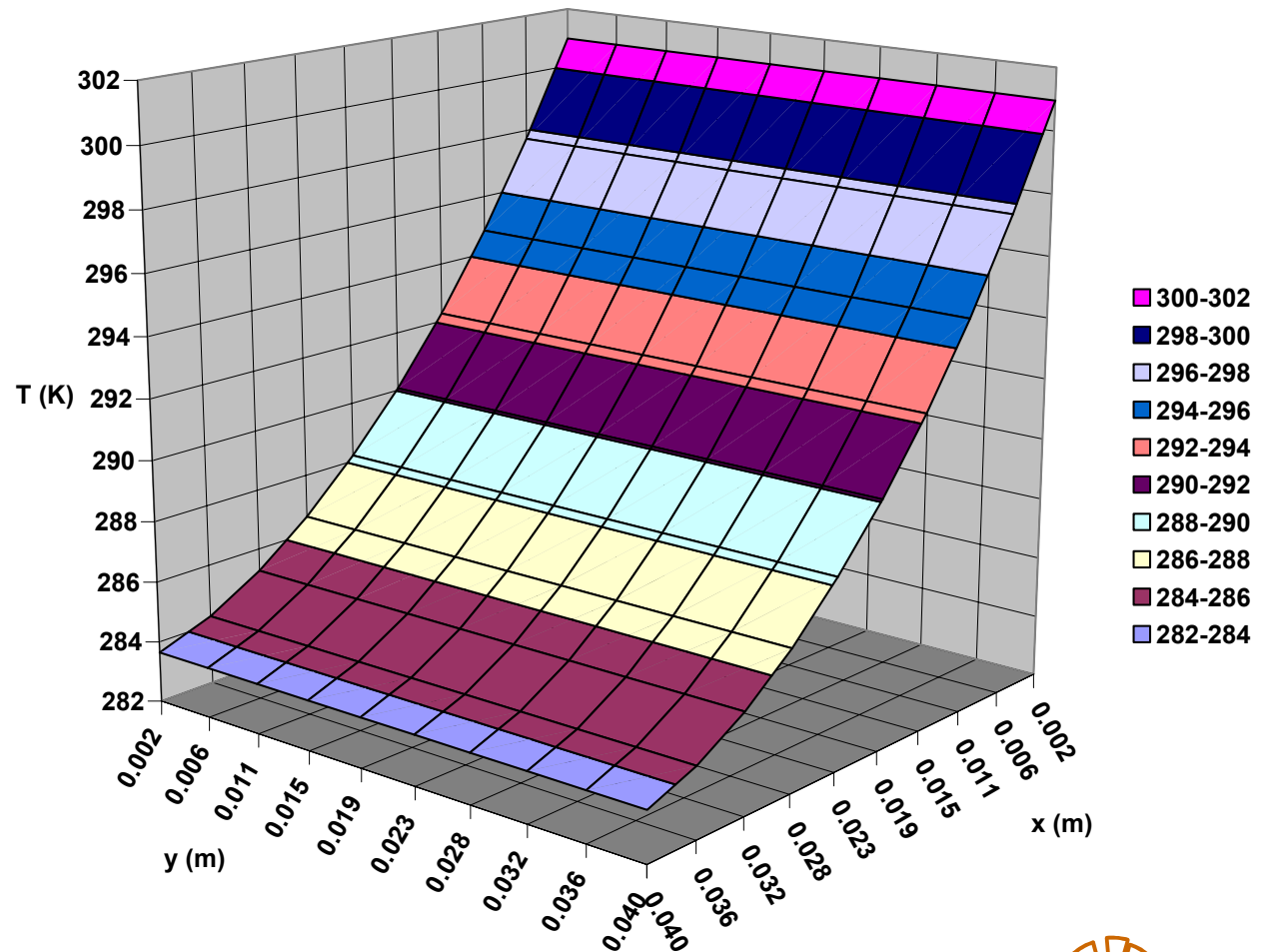


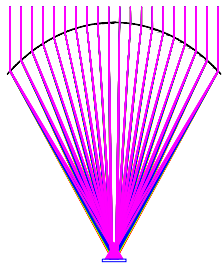
Thermal Analysis: Line Focus with 50% Cells

10X Linear Lens Radiator Thermal Analysis

8.5 cm Aperture Width, 50% Cell, 127 micron Radiator Thickness, GEO Orbit

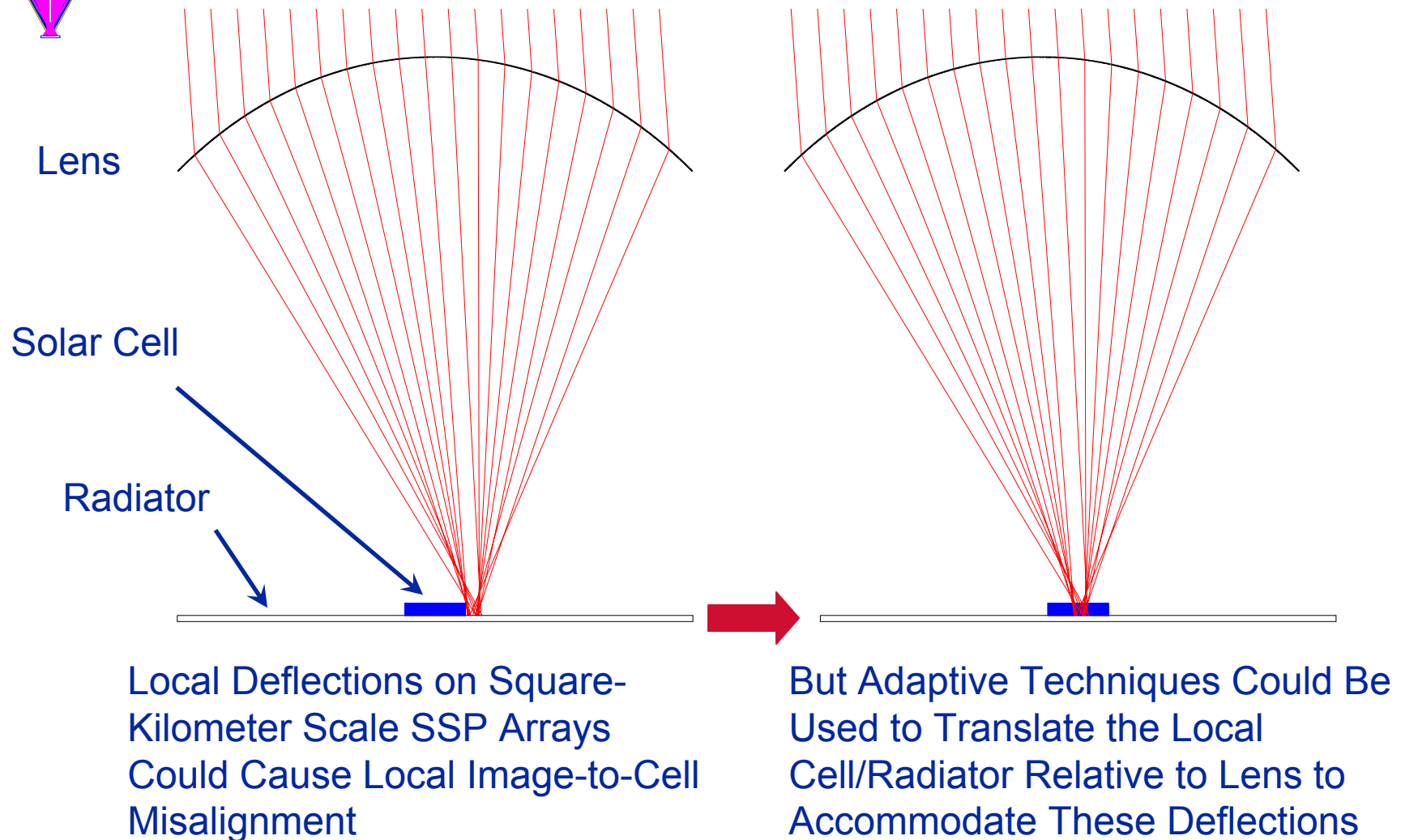
Max Radiator Temperature Just Beneath Cell = 301K (28C)





Advanced Concentrator Concepts for SSP

Adaptive Techniques Could Be Used to Accommodate Large SSP Deflections

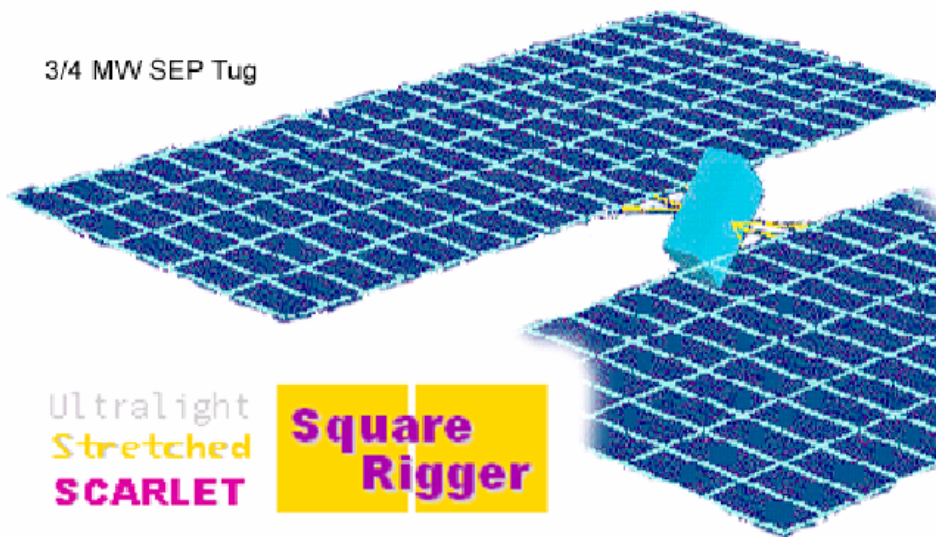


A Flimsy Blanket Array with Large Deflections Can Work with a Concentrator Approach with Proper Adaptive Accommodation

A Marriage Made in Heaven: ABLE's SquareRigger Platform and ENTECH's Stretched Lens Array

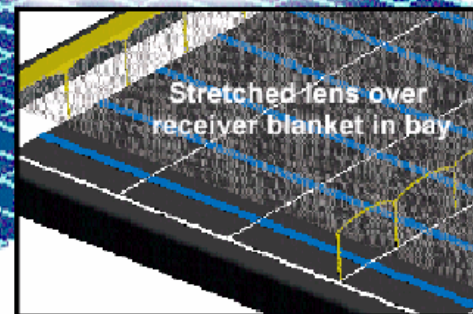
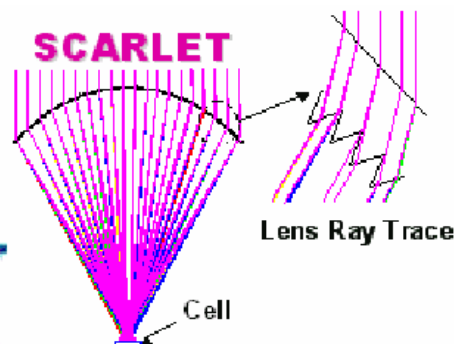


3/4 MW SEP Tug



Ultralight
Stretched
SCARLET

**Square
Rigger**

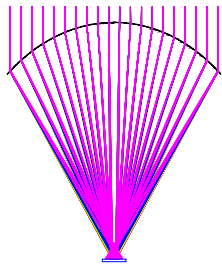


USS SquareRigger

Time Frame	< 5 Years	5-10 Years
Power Capability (kW)	100	1,000
BOL Specific Power (W/kg)	330	500
Stowed Power (kW/m ³)	80	120
Voltage	1,000	TBD

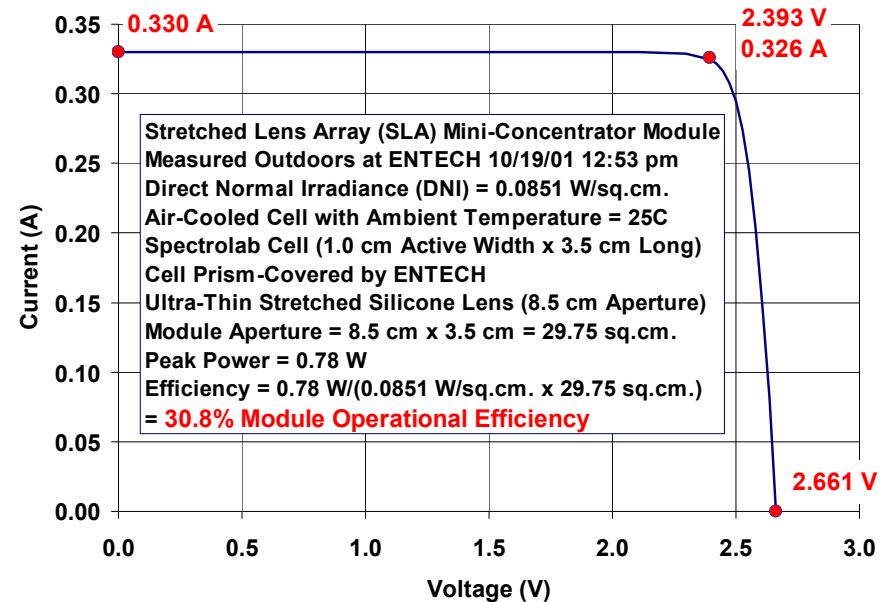
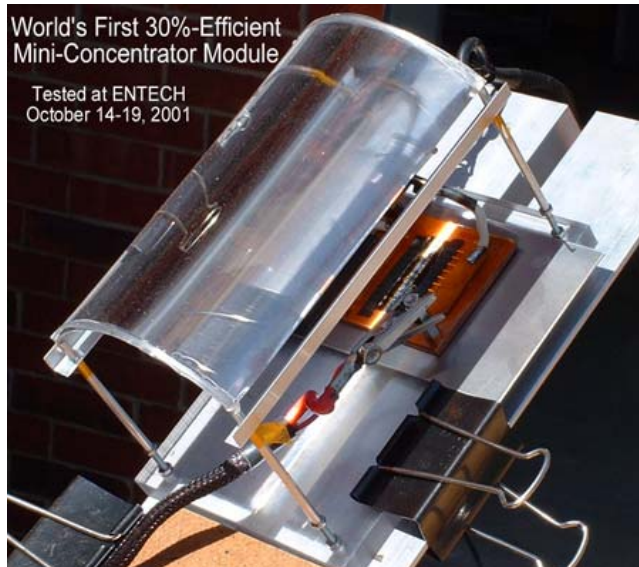
Applicable to: All NASA, DOD, and commercial spacecraft requiring high power, including:

- GEO communication satellites
- Interplanetary SEP spacecraft
- Space Solar Power
- SEP Orbital Tugs

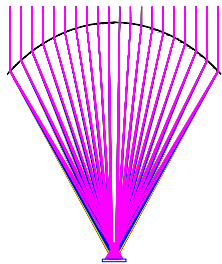


Synergy with Terrestrial Solar Power

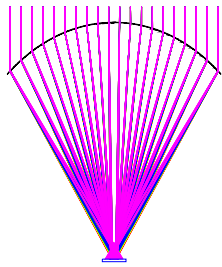
Typical IV Curve for 30%-Efficient Mini-Concentrator Using a Spectrolab Cell



- ◆ This Is Believed to Be the First Solar Energy Device Tested Outdoors Under Natural Sunlight at **Over 30%** Operational Solar-to-Electric Conversion Efficiency
- ◆ A Much-Larger Parabolic Dish/Stirling Engine Unit Achieved **29.4%** Efficiency in 1984
- ◆ Despite the Obviously More Significant Power Output of the Dish/Stirling Unit (~ 25 kW), This Tiny Module (~ 1W) Shows that Photovoltaic Technology Has Now Overtaken Solar Thermal Technology in Conversion Efficiency



Conclusion



Conclusions

- ◆ **Refractive Concentrators Using Multi-Junction Cells Represent the Most Efficient Option for Converting Sunlight to Electricity for Either Space or Ground Solar Power Applications**
- ◆ **Today's Demonstrated Lens/Cell Module Efficiencies Are 27% in Space and 30% on the Ground – Future Efficiencies at SSP Implementation (e.g., 2022) Should Nearly Double Based on Cell Efficiency Trends**
- ◆ **Compared to Thin Film Arrays, Refractive Concentrator Arrays Will Be 2-4X More Efficient, 2-4X Smaller in Size, and Equal or Better in Terms of W/kg and \$/W at the System Level**
- ◆ **Work Should Continue on Advanced Concentrator Arrays for SSP, Including Advanced Ultra-Light Concepts and Simple Means to Accommodate Large Deflections on Square-Kilometer Size Arrays, Using Techniques from Adaptive Optics, Smart Materials, Shape Memory Alloys, etc.**